

**BREAK HOME ONLY
AS A LAST RESORT**

Charity Workers Plead for State Aid Where Poverty Threatens Family Circle

Nation of To-Morrow.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 3.—The importance of the practical solution of the home situation was the central theme around which the discussion revolved at the conference on the care of dependent children, which was formally opened by President Roosevelt at the White House late to-day. The subject under consideration was "Should the Breeding of the Home Be Permitted for Reasons of Poverty, or Only for Reasons of Inefficiency or Immorality?"

It was the unanimous opinion of the array of notable men and women, many of whom took part in the discussion, that the child can best be reared under the influence of the home, and that it should be removed from the family circle only when proper supervision at home has become impossi-

It also was the consensus of opinion that where poverty exists in the home State aid should be given.

The historic east room of the White House was the scene of this notable conference.

The Nation of To-Morrow.
The President spoke in part as follows:
"There can be no more important subject, from the standpoint of the nation, than that with which you are

deal; because, when you take care of the children, you are taking care of the nation of to-morrow, and it is incumbent upon every one of us to do all in his or her power to provide for the interests of these children whom cruel misfortune has handicapped at the very outset of their lives.

"There are, of course, several different types of conditions which you are trying to meet. I believe that all of us have come to the conclusion that where possible the thing to be done is

the child is to provide a home for and that where that is not possible we should make the conditions as nearly as possible like those which the child would have in a home. There is ample room for all existing institutions, but the work of extension should, so far as possible, be a work of extension to homes, places, and where that is not

possible, to make the conditions surrounding the child that cannot be in a home as nearly as possible those which would obtain were the child in a home.

"There are half a dozen different types of children for whom we need to care. There is, first of all, the complete orphan, the child who has lost both father and mother. For this child we wish to make permanent provision. My own belief is that the best kind of permanent provision

feasible, is to place that child in home. We then have to meet the case—one of the most distressing cases—where the father has died where the bread-winner has gone

where the mother would like to keep the child, but simply lacks earning capacity. Surely, in such cases the goal towards which we should strive is to help that mother so that she can keep her own home and keep the child.

Diversified Problems.

away from the parent or parents, but where it is not desirable that the separation be permanent. The children offer cases for which the institution is peculiarly fitted. The

are other problems, of course, that you will have to deal with: for instance, the crippled child, the child that can not be treated at home for disease, but yet can be completely cured in a hospital; and the case

"Here we must provide for the exercising of the greatest wisdom obtainable in knowing just where to draw

the line, so as to know just when becomes necessary to say that even the undoubted advantages of keeping the child in a pretty poor home, if the home is its own, are counterbalanced

by the fact that the home has become not a source of benefit, but a source of menace and danger to the child. You will have to consider a dozen such problems.

"The government can do much. But never forget that the government can not do everything; there must always be help by individuals and associations outside; that religious and philanthropic organizations and many different

thropic associations of many different kinds must co-operate with the government, or we cannot get the best results. Another thing as to the government itself: Remember always that government is not merely an abstract

term. The government consists of men in it, and if you do not have the right men handling any part of the great governmental system, then that part will work badly.

"In the last analysis the human equation is the vital equation in dealing with all these questions. The mind man cannot devise a system so perfect that it will work well unless it

worked by men both good and w
and unless outsiders who take a ge
life interest in the matter also g
their aid and exercise their superv
ion."

An emphatic affirmative was given to the question: "Should the State inspect the work of all child-caring agencies including both institutions and home finding societies?" by Amos W. Br

ler, secretary of the State Board of Charities, of Indianapolis, and Hugh Fox, president of the State Board of Children's Guardians, New Jersey.

An affirmative answer was given